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**In the United States Patent and Trademark Office**

Application Number: 10/790,151  
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Applicant: Arjuna Indraeswaran Rajasingham  
Examiner: Mr. Doron Fields  
Art Unit: 3623

April 16, 2009

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**Response To Office Action of April 14, 2009**

Sir,

In response to the Office Action of April 14, 2009, the applicant submit as follows with amendments as required:

The applicant submits that for independence:

" the term "independent" means that there is no disclosed relationship between the two or more inventions claimed, that is, they are unconnected in design, operation, and effect. " MPEP Section 802.01. I

The applicant further submits that for related but distinct inventions:

"Related inventions are distinct if the inventions as claimed are not connected in at least one of design (e.g. structure or method of manufacture), operation (e.g., function or method of use), or effect and wherein one invention is Patentable (novel and unobvious) over the other" MPEP Section 802.01. II

The applicant submits amended claims 1 and 13 to that are neither Independent nor distinct.

Claim 1 as amended has the same *effect* as the method claim narrowed from that originally submitted:

"A method for business decision support for creating a part of an economic venture for evaluating human resources utilizing an information network with a plurality of members – a Professional Collaboration Network with a Professional Layer and at least one Trust Layer comprising:"

Claim 1 as amended has the same *structure* as the method claim originally submitted:

1. Accessing at least one Professional Layer
2. Accessing at least one Trust Layer
3. A user interface accessing this information for decision support using 1., and 2.

Claim 1 as amended has the same *operation* or method of use as the method claim originally submitted as the decision support system operates by:

1. Assessing the professional ability of members from at least one Professional Layer
2. Assessing the trust references from at least one Trust Layer